

A virtual production designed for our current times

New York Premiere

SHE PERSISTED, THE MUSICAL

script & lyrics by **Adam Tobin**
music by **Deborah Wicks La Puma**
adapted from the book written by
Chelsea Clinton & illustrated by
Alexandra Boiger
published by Philomel Books
music supervision by **Macy Schmidt**
Directed & Choreographed by
MK Lawson

ATLANTIC FOR KIDS



We are about to watch *She Persisted* from Atlantic Theater Company.

Theater

She Persisted was originally produced for the theater but due to the pandemic the show had to stop. The team worked together to film this version we are watching today. The actors filmed their own parts from their homes and it was edited together to make this production.



Lights and Effects

There will be many different visual effects used in the show. We can always pause the stream if we need to take a break.



Sound

Since this show is a musical, there will be singing and a few sound effects. If the sounds are too loud, we can cover our ears, lower the volume, or pause the stream and take a break.



Quiet Space

If we need a break, we can pause and return to the stream when you are ready. You can even watch it the next day since the rental will be available for 48 hours.

Meet the Cast



Auberth Bercy
Ruby Bridges/Bailey



Jianzi Colón-Soto
Sonia Sotomayer/ Juno



Amanda Corday
Dr. Virginia Apgar/ Sally Ride



Amber Jaunai
Naomi



Cynthia Nesbit
Harriet Tubman/Florence Griffith-Joyner



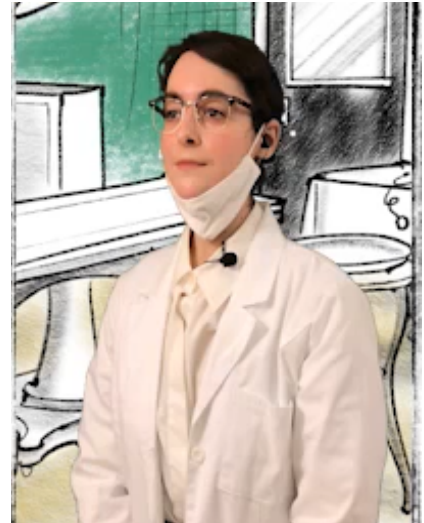
Heather Sawyer
Ms. Chan/Time

Here are the historical figures you will see in the show:

Sonia Sotomayor is a United States Supreme Court Justice. She is from the Bronx and the first and only Latina woman on the Court.



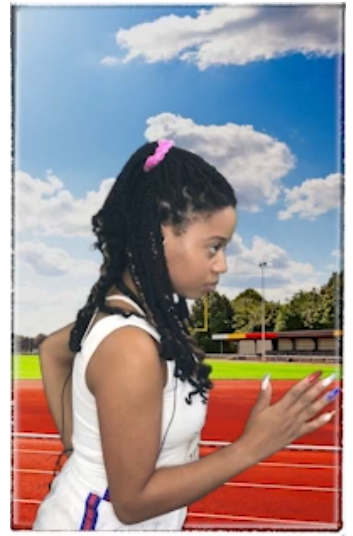
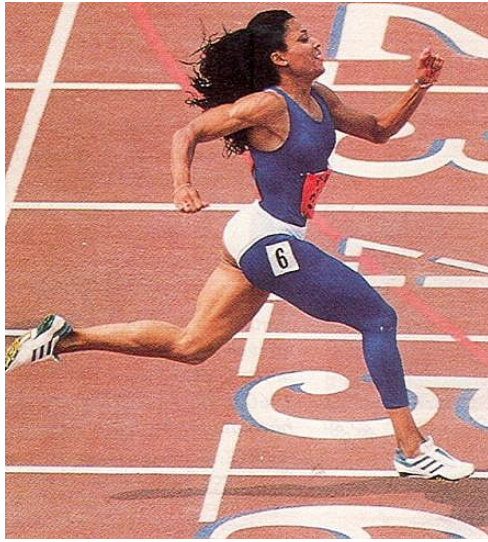
Dr. Virginia Apgar was a doctor most known for creating the “Apgar score” a quick way to check a newborn’s health once they are born.



Harriet Tubman was an African-American anti-slavery worker. She escaped slavery and then helped more than 300 hundred enslaved people escape using the Underground Railroad.



Florence Griffith Joyner was a track and field athlete. She won three gold medals at the Olympics and is considered the fastest woman of all time.



Sally Ride was a physicist and astronaut who became the first woman in space in 1983.



Ruby Bridges is an activist. She is known for being the first black child to attend an all white school in the South during the fight to desegregate schools.



In the musical...

This is a story about Naomi who travels through time to learn about women from history:

Lights up!

The story starts in Naomi's 4th grade virtual class. They are going to do a zoom field trip to the "National Museum of Women in History." They are about to visit the "History Through Time" exhibit.

The teacher Ms. Chan tells the class they will need to write an essay about how the persistent women in the exhibit have inspired them to follow their dreams.

Naomi doesn't know how she will write the essay since she messed up her essay in front of the whole class the day before.

Time Travel:

All of a sudden the character "Time" shows up and takes Naomi on a trip to the past. In this play Time is a character played by an actor.

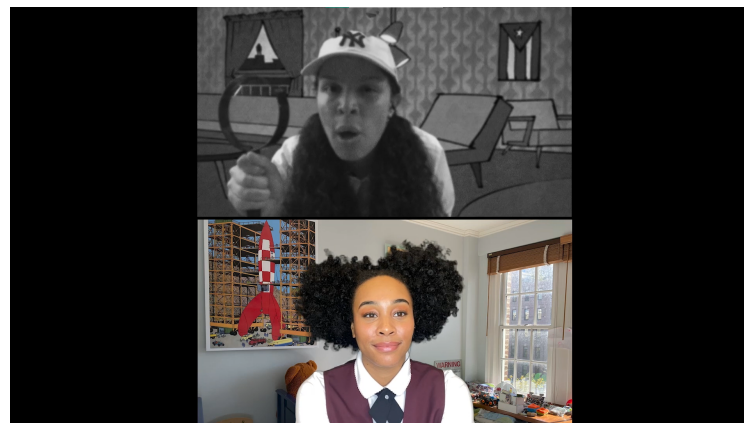


Naomi meets Sonia Sotomayor:

Time takes Naomi to 1961 where Naomi meets a young Sonia Sotomayor who is looking for her *arroz con dulce*, a dessert. Sonia says she's a great detective and can solve any problem.

When Sonia is told she can't be a detective because it's too dangerous, she's disappointed but comes up with another solution: to be a lawyer.

Naomi learns to find another solution.



Naomi meets Dr. Apgar:

Time takes Naomi to the 1930s where they meet Dr. Apgar. She became a doctor in a time when most women couldn't even go to college.

She saved a baby's life by noticing it needed oxygen. Dr. Apgar sings about her discoveries she made as a doctor. **Naomi learns to stay curious.**



Naomi meets Harriet Tubman:

Naomi is transported to the time of Harriet Tubman. Harriet helped people escape slavery in the south by guiding them north to Canada. They hear dogs in the distance and have to run away.

Harriet sings a song about how she has to have hope and believe that people are good. **Naomi learns she needs to have hope and to find her own path.**



Naomi meets Sonia at Princeton:

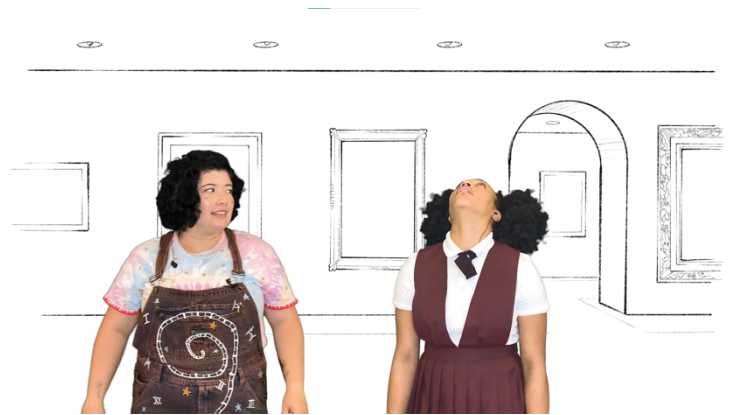
Time transports Naomi to Princeton University in 1974 where Sonia is standing nervously in front of the President of Princeton's door. She wants to tell him there are not enough Puerto Rican and Chicano students at Princeton. Naomi encourages her to be herself and stand up for what she believes. Sonia decides to try.

Even though the president says no, Sonia says they haven't changed things YET and promises to find another solution. Eventually a change was made. **Naomi learns she needs to be persistent.**



Talking with Time:

Even though Naomi has seen so many amazing women she still doesn't know how to write her essay. Time suggests Naomi talk to her teacher Ms. Chan. **Naomi learns she needs to learn to love herself even when she fails.**



Naomi meets Florence Griffith Joyner:

Naomi meets the olympic runner Florence Griffith Joyner. Florence didn't win the first time, she had to train hard.

Florence sings a song about how you need to run your own race, have fun, and be yourself. **Naomi learns it's about trying to be your personal best.**



Naomi meets Sally Ride:

Naomi meets Sally Ride who is training to be an astronaut. **Naomi learns that it's important to try new things, make mistakes and dream.**

Naomi is still worried about her essay and gets frustrated with Time. Naomi thinks she is too young to do anything important.



Naomi meets Ruby Bridges:

Transported to New Orleans in 1960, Naomi meets Ruby Bridges who is giving herself a pep talk as she waits to go to school. Ruby is in first grade and is the first African-American student to go to an all white school. Everyday on her way to school mobs of white people throw rocks and scream horrible things at her because they don't want her to go to the same school as the white students.



Ruby tells Naomi that sometimes she just wants to stop. **Naomi learns that sometimes you need to be brave, hold your head up high and walk on.**

Naomi says that is the bravest thing she's ever seen and then she sings about how she's learned she doesn't need to be perfect she just needs to try.

Naomi returns to the museum:

Time returns Naomi back to her class.

Naomi asks Ms. Chan for help with her essay. Then she tells Ms. Chan everything she has learned.

Ms. Chan tells Naomi that it doesn't seem like she needed her help on the essay after all.



**Thank you for
joining us at Atlantic Theater
Company!**